

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information service search support apparatus comprising:

5 a temporary search unit configured to, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, search a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said  
10 plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to the contents of each service; and

search condition item extracting means for extracting at least one of an information item related  
15 to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and a value of the information item, from the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the information item extracted and the value extracted, together with the result of the search made by the  
20 temporary search unit.

2. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by common category, the information item names and/or item values  
25 related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

3. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by common category, the information item names and/or item values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

4. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the search condition item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

5. The information service search support apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

6. An information service search apparatus for searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on a network, comprising:

an information service search support section; and  
a registry in which said plurality of information services are registered in such a manner that said

plurality of information services correspond to  
information items and item values corresponding to  
the contents of each service, wherein

the information service search support section  
5 includes

a temporary search unit configured to, when  
receiving from an agent a search request to search for  
the desired information service, search the registry;  
and

10 search condition item extracting means for  
extracting at least one of an information item related  
to the information service retrieved by the temporary  
search unit and a value of the information item, from  
the registry and notifying the agent of at least of the  
15 information item extracted and the value extracted,  
together with the result of the search made by the  
temporary search unit.

7. The information service search apparatus  
according to claim 6, wherein the search condition item  
20 extracting means classifies, by common category, the  
information item names and/or item values related to  
the information service retrieved by the temporary  
search unit and notifies the agent of the result.

8. The information service search apparatus  
25 according to claim 7, wherein the search condition item  
extracting means uses ontology trees to classify, by  
common category, the information item names and/or item

values related to the information service retrieved by the temporary search unit.

9. The information service search apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the search condition  
5 item extracting means classifies, by the frequency of appearance, the information item names and/or item values classified by category and notifies the agent of the result.

10. The information service search apparatus  
10 according to claim 9, wherein the search condition item extracting means determines the qualification as a search condition item of each of the information item names and/or item values classified by the frequency of appearance for a search condition, on the basis of its  
15 frequency of appearance and notifies the agent of the result.

11. An information service search method of searching for a desired information service from a plurality of information services existing on  
20 a network, comprising:

a first step of, when receiving from an agent a search request to search for the desired information service, searching, on the basis of the search request, a registry in which said plurality of information  
25 services are registered in such a manner that said plurality of information services correspond to information items and item values corresponding to

the contents of each service; and

a second step of extracting at least one of  
an information item related to the information service  
retrieved in the first step and a value of the  
5 information item, from the registry and notifying the  
agent of at least of the information item extracted and  
the value extracted, together with the result of the  
search in the first step.

12. The information service search method  
10 according to claim 11, wherein the second step is  
a step of classifying, by common category, the item  
values for the information items related to the  
information service retrieved in the first step and  
notifying the agent of the result.

15 13. The information service search method  
according to claim 12, wherein the second step is  
a step of using ontology trees to classify, by common  
category, the item values for the information items  
related to the information service retrieved in the  
20 first step.

14. The information service search method  
according to claim 12, wherein the second step includes  
a third step of classifying, by the frequency of  
appearance, the keywords included in the item values  
25 classified by category and notifying the agent of the  
result.

15. The information service search method

according to claim 14, wherein the second step is  
a step of determining the qualification of each of  
the keywords classified by the frequency of appearance  
in the third step, on the basis of its frequency of  
5 appearance and notifying the agent of the result.